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South Carolina State Library Board

S. C. STATE LIBRARY

NEWS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIANS

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January 1959

STATE DOCUMENTS
18th Issue

BOOKMOBILES LOST IN HOLIDAY FIRE

A holiday fire brought real disaster to the Spartanburg Public Library. The blaze that swept through the Standard Tire & Recapping Company on December 27 burned the library's three bookmobiles which were stored there. Two were destroyed, but librarian George Linder says that there is hope that the third one, though badly damaged, can be rebuilt.

NLW PRESSES ARE ROLLING

The National Library Week Organization Handbook, just off the press, has been mailed to 3200 public libraries and to 350 library supervisors. Bulk shipments have gone to executive directors in each state and the territories, and to state library extension agencies. Publicity mailings are under way to organizations and to the press.

An eye-catching, five-color, NLW poster is in production, due soon. The first run will be used for promotion and publicity purposes. The promotional materials brochure, listing prices of each item to be sold, was distributed to 5000 committees in early December.

NATIONAL PLANS ARE BIG

Big plans are being made for NLW in the national press. Articles, editorials or columns on NLW are now scheduled in Look, Saturday Evening Post, Parents Magazine, American Legion, Boys' Life, Christian Herald, Town & Country, Farm Journal, Reader's Digest, Saturday Review and This Week. In the juvenile field, Children's Digest (circ. 929,000) will carry an article in the January issue describing the role young people can play in NLW. Four Scholastic publications, each hitting different age levels, promise to feature stories relating to Library Week.

The Institute of Student Opinion, rated the country's most accurate school survey system, will conduct a poll in March with NLW, to determine the reading habits of teenagers. The results will appear in Scholastic and will be reprinted for school distribution.

The Oxford Paper Company has set part of the NLW advertising campaign in motion by agreeing to run a full-page, color advertisement on the power of the printed word in the New Yorker and Business Week, to tie in with Library Week.

Religious groups are in gear with NLW, too. The Protestant Church-Owned Publishers' Association, representing 32 denominational magazines, has pledged full cooperation with NLW. The NCWC News Service, with an aggregate circulation of four

million, has scheduled a syndicated article by Father Harold C. Gardiner to appear simultaneously in America. In the Jewish field, Rabbi Samuel Silver, representing the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and affiliates, has officially endorsed NLW.

And NLW will go network. Three network radio and television shows are already scheduled: "Invitation to Learning" (CBS) with Lyman Bryson; "Christophers" (ABC) with Father James Keller; and "Christians in Action" (ABC). Half-hour CBS and NBC "specials" are under preparation.

MAKE LOCAL PLANS NOW

With national plans so well advanced, it is not a bit too soon to start work on local plans for NLW. This year the initiative in forming the local committee must be taken by the librarians in each community, in line with organization over the country.

NLW is a program in which librarians from all kinds of libraries should be involved, but someone must take the important step of getting the others together in planning. It seems most practical for the public library to take this first step.

County and city librarians are asked to start now in the organization of the local committee by inviting representatives of libraries of all kinds in the community to meet. Do not forget to include school librarians, local college and university library people, and any special librarians. Also invite some trustees and representatives of friends of the library. These might be the steps in your organization:

- (1) Discuss with this group the overall objectives for which you want to use Library Week in your community.

- (2) Draw up a list of choices for chairman of your local committee and committee members. Remember to think of hitherto untapped sources of support for reading and libraries instead of relying only on the tried and true friends whom you already have. Aim high. No one wants a letterhead committee, but it is desirable and possible to enlist the interest of top leaders, especially those who have shown interest in other public service efforts, and then find ways to involve them in library matters. Prestige people on your Library Week committee will draw others, and will provide leaders.

- (3) Invite your choice for chairman to serve through the most persuasive channels you can find. Perhaps one of your trustees or "Friends" can help you secure his acceptance. If you want to involve someone and cannot find an appropriate local channel, ask the State Committee through the Executive Director, Captain James M. Hillard, The Citadel Library, Charleston, to help you. It is very likely that the chairman or one of the members of the State Committee will have some personal or business contact with the proposed local chairman of your choice.

National Library Week is not an end in itself but a means of helping libraries to attain many objectives. It is not a separate, isolated project, merely to be observed, but an integral part of an effort to strengthen support for libraries, to encourage their use, and to stress the importance of reading.

Prepare now to make the most of it!

HOBBY SERIES IN LANCASTER

The latest of the Lancaster County Library's continuing series of hobby displays was an exhibit of model airplanes and ships built by Jimmy Davis. Jimmy is a sixth grade student who became interested in models two years ago when he received his first model airplane for Christmas. Since then he has built many airplanes, among them a B-49, P-40, SA-16, PBY Catalina and two helicopters, and has branched out to build a rocket launcher and several model ships. Jimmy's models were shown in the library during the first week in December.

The current series of hobby displays and demonstrations began July 1 with the showing of the film, "Hobbies and Interests." Then on August 4 Mrs. Bascomb Plyler, dietician at McDonald Green School, presented a program on "Party Favors and Table Decorations." In October Miss Sadie Blackmon, president of the Evening Garden Club, gave a demonstration of how to make fall arrangements from both dried and fresh plant material, and displayed some of her dried bouquets. Other sessions have included two on art led by Mrs. Angus Hagins and Mrs. Charles Sisson.

In commenting on future programs Miss Robbie J. Horton, Librarian, said that she hopes to have one on "Ideas for a Rainy Day" in February and another on Worship Centers in March.

NOTABLE TRUSTEES: C. MOYE PADGETT

by

Mrs. Marguerite G. Thompson

"It is the realization of a dream come true," stated C. Moyer Padgett at the dedication service on April 28, 1957, of the new Colleton County Memorial Library in Walterboro.

It had been a special dream of Mr. Padgett's since he first became chairman of the County Library Board in 1949. In that year he had taken over the reins of Colleton County Superintendent of Education, an office he still holds. By virtue of this office, he became a member of the Library Board and was soon elected its chairman. He was subsequently elected chairman of the County Memorial Library Commission upon its official organization in 1955. This Commission, whose first undertaking was the building of a \$100,000 library for the county, is composed of former members of the boards of the County Library and the Walterboro Library Society.

With a degree from the Citadel and post graduate work at Clemson and the University of S. C., Mr. Padgett taught in the schools of his native county until assuming his elective

position. From his first years of work with the people of Colleton County, he has been interested in the availability of good reading material for everyone. "An informed public is an enlightened public," he believes.

His belief has always been strong in the importance of the library to the farm families as well as to the townspeople. His perseverance in this area has resulted in broadened public library service to the rural areas of the county. Bookmobile service in Colleton County today accounts for approximately two-thirds of the total library circulation.

It is evident that Mr. Padgett believes that true leadership is the art of sharing responsibility with others. Every member of the Library Commission is assigned to one or more of the Commission's committees. He believes in the employment of a qualified library staff and advocates the division of responsibility between the Librarian and the Commission.

All work and no play is contrary to Mr. Padgett's life. On holidays and afternoons off, he loads his car with family, friends, and rod and reel, and heads out for his choice low-country fishing spots. He enjoys hunting also, and, like Dr. Havilah Babcock of the University, finds that his "health is better in November." He is a lover of nature and a flower-grower. He takes special pride in his zinnia blooms.

Mr. Padgett is a person of energy and enthusiasm and is a tireless community worker. In addition to his work with the library, he has served as president of the Walterboro Lion's Club, and chairman of the Red Cross drive and March of Dimes for the county. He is a deacon in his church and for the past 22 years has served as teacher of the men's Bible class. He has filled the pulpit at churches temporarily without pastors and says he has found great joy in the endeavor.

Mr. Padgett is married to the former Mary Kathryn Everett. They have two children and three grandchildren.

WHY TEACH JOHNNY TO READ?

(Reprinted from the Newsletter of the

Division of Library Extension,
Massachusetts Department of Education)

One irate citizen in a small city in Massachusetts has just written a scorching letter to the city's newspaper. He is worked up by the fact that the community's library is a DISGRACE, largely because of hopelessly inadequate financial support. We think he expressed his opinion rather well, and so, we take the liberty of quoting him:

"To spend millions of dollars to teach our children how to read and not to have adequate library facilities for them while they are in school and for the rest of their lives, is like training a football team and then not allowing any game to be played.

"Is the City of _____ really throwing away money on its educational system when it spends so much on one part - the schools - and neglects so grossly another part - the

library... The schools are a practice session and the library the game itself. What does it profit to teach Johnny to read, if he never reads after he gets out of school?"

This may be the psychological moment to point out the fact that the average American spends only about 8-1/2 years in school. Seven eights of his life remain to be lived. His educational needs for this great part of his life are going to be filled by the LIBRARY, not the school, in all probability. So, make sure that your community keeps a sense of proportion between school needs and library needs, when its educational program is under consideration.

LIBRARIANS ARE TALKING ABOUT

Special Days, Weeks and Months in 1959

Issued in previous years by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, this has been combined in a single publication with Chases' Calendar of Annual Events. It is available at \$1.00 per copy from: Apple Tree Press, 2322 Mallery Street, Flint 4, Michigan.

How to Use "A Parent's Guide to Children's Reading"

A companion pamphlet to the Nancy Larrick book published under National Book Committee sponsorship, this gives suggestions for teachers, librarians and youth group leaders. For more information write to: National Book Committee, 24 West 40th Street, New York 18, N. Y.

Listening Library, Inc.

This organization is a center for spoken word recordings. Library members are entitled to rent talking books by mail or in person, and may purchase at discounts many commercial 12" spoken word recordings on 33-1/3 or 16-2/3 rpm discs. The Library also has phonograph "reading machines," turntable adaptors, earphones and pillow speakers for sale at reduced prices. A monthly news sheet featuring new spoken word releases and other items of interest in the field is sent to members. For complete information write to: Listening Library, Inc., 10 East 44th Street, New York 17, N. Y.

YOUR PROBLEMS

by

Anne Library

Dear Anne:

I am leaving my position as head librarian of an excellent county library with considerable regret. Your advice will not help me, but airing the problem which led to my resignation may help other librarians and other boards to hold their staff. I was thirty-five when I came to this small Southern city as librarian of a completely new county library system. I came from a larger city where I had worked with a large library staff,

had many friends and many contacts in the community. I was used to a pleasant social life and to feeling that I was liked and my company welcome. I had looked forward to working in a small town for I was under the illusion that the atmosphere would be pleasant, friendly and neighborly. It took me a long time to realize that this was an "illusion". I can honestly say that I made every effort to make contacts in the community. I went to church and took part in church activities; I joined a few local clubs; I did the limited entertaining that a single woman can manage in a small apartment. But I remained an outsider and a stranger. The whole town was related to each other in some degree and the whole population broken up into tight little groups more exclusive because unconsciously so. The members of my board could have helped introduce me in the community but in the two years I have been here not one of them has extended any courtesy to me or made any effort to make me feel at home here. I have tried it for two years, but I have finally decided that even an interesting job cannot make up for the loneliness and unhappiness of my personal life here.

The Outsider

Dear Outsider:

You have my complete sympathy. I think you were noble to stay even two years and I'll bet your board wonders why you are leaving. You ought to tell them and I hope you will. It will be good for them and may open their eyes to a responsibility to which they have apparently been blind. How a library board can think that once they have been lucky enough to find a librarian, they can forget about her, is more than I can understand. The board, if it expects to hold staff, must make every effort to make the new employee feel at home, wanted, welcome, and comfortable in the new community. This may involve more than introducing the librarian to a few friends, it may even mean taking the poor girl home to dinner occasionally, inviting her to parties, asking her in to play bridge, including her in plans for the beach or the mountains, seeing to it that she has a chance to make friends and be accepted in the community. It is no joke to be plopped down in a strange town and unless the new employee can learn to like the community better than any place she ever lived before, she is not going to stay. A board's responsibility is all inclusive as far as library matters are concerned and in no way can they better serve their community than through employing competent librarians and keeping them so satisfied that they will stay happily in the community.

Dear Anne:

I work at the circulation desk of a medium size library. I am married and have a husband, children and a house to care for outside working hours. Both of the girls who work with me are single and have no home obligations. Our librarian knows this and yet she expects me to keep the same schedule, to work as many nights, and to attend as many meetings as the others. Is this fair?

Homemaker

Dear Homemaker:

It certainly is! When you accepted your job, you contracted to do certain work -- including night hours and attendance at meetings -- in return for a specified sum of money. Having a family and outside responsibilities does not in any way relieve you of your obligations. (Only a genuine emergency can do that.) Nor does the absence of family duties oblige your fellow workers to take on more than their share of the work. Suppose your librarian let you get away with this. Then how would you feel when the others were given a raise in pay and you were passed over because you were married and your family distracted you from your job?

If having a family means you can't do all the things a given job entails, then have the exceptions clearly understood before you accept the position and be prepared to accept also a lower salary.

Do you have a problem? Write to Anne Library.

SEEN HERE AND THERE

Mrs. Jimmye B. Watson, librarian of the Carnegie Library, Kingstree, retiring January 1, 1959. She was appointed in 1952.

The Greenwood City and County Public Library holding open house in its new building.

New shelves being built in the County Department of the Laurens County Library.

Mrs. Jim LaGrone, Johnston, away from home because of her mother's serious illness.

An Abbeville committee already at work on the White House Conference questionnaire.

A Trenton committee making plans with Miss Josephine Crouch and Mrs. Hilda Stabovitz to reopen the Ben Tillman Library as a branch of the Aiken-Barnwell-Edgefield Regional Library.

The Fairfield County Library presenting Home Demonstration Club reading certificates to two members and second-year seals to five.

The Newberry-Saluda Regional Library presenting to its Home Demonstration Club readers one second-year seal and five third-year seals.

The Chester Rotary Club touring the Chester County Library.

Lancaster Brownie Troop No. 9 visiting the Lancaster County Library for a special story and film program.

The Colleton County Memorial Library making 16 mm. color films available in its service area by joining the Canadian Government Travel Film circuit. Library members of the circuit receive a deposit of three new films every two months. During the deposit period these films may be loaned to local service clubs, church groups, schools and any other interested community organizations. After two months the deposit is replaced by another block of films.

The Florence Public Library setting up a new teen-age collection which will include books written especially for teen-agers, copies of adult books suitable for young people, and a wide selection of vocational material.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 27-30, 1959	ALA Midwinter Meeting, Chicago
April 12-18	National Library Week
June 21-27	ALA Conference, Washington

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